A Celebration of Souls: Day of the Dead in Southern Mexico

Fiesta de Las Almas: Día de los Muertos el Sur de México



Exhibition Overview

Each November 1 and 2, families in villages across Mexico gather to welcome home the visiting spirits of departed relatives on *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead). Families prepare for the celebration weeks in advance by planning lively reunions, decorating burial plots, and preparing special foods. Participants honor the deceased with home altars that include skeleton models, elaborate wreaths and crosses, votive lights, and fresh seasonal flowers.





Encounter the colorful traditions of this luminous holiday with 26 stunning color photographs that capture Day of the Dead celebrations in and around Oaxaca, Mexico. Join villagers immersed in all aspects of the celebration—preparing centuries-old recipes for the departed, scattering trails of marigolds to guide the dead home, and offering chocolate and *pan de muerto* (bread of the dead) at community gatherings. Through gorgeous photographs and engaging panels in English and Spanish, *A Celebration of Souls* brings the vibrant Day of the Dead traditions to communities around the world.

The Photographers

Howard-Yana Shapiro, Ph.D.

Howard-Yana Shapiro has been involved with sustainable agricultural and tree cropping systems for over 30 years, working with governments and nongovernmental organizations throughout the world. A 2-time Ford Foundation Fellow, Fulbright Scholar, recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Award, and former professor, Dr. Shapiro currently serves as Vice President for Agriculture at Seeds of Change and Research Manager of Plant Science at its parent company, M&M/Mars. His land in northern New Mexico was first cultivated by the Tewa people more than 3,000 years ago. The organic farm includes orchards and a seed cleaning facility. His plant breeding involves a wide variety of crop plants including *Capsicum, Brassica, Zea,* and *Theobroma*.

Scott Vlaun

For more than two decades, Scott Vlaun has photographed and written about the sustainable agriculture movement. Earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography from the University of New Mexico, Scott's photographs have appeared in the Seeds of Change catalogs, numerous gardening magazines, and books, including *Gardencycle: A Gardener's Day Journal, Gardening for the Future of the Earth,* and *Organic Living.* He is a regular contributor to Mother Earth News and the Seeds of Change Cutting Edge Newsletter, among others. He and his wife founded Moose Pond Arts+Ecology out of their organic farm in Otisfield, Maine.



Ricardo J. Garibay Ruiz

Mexico City native Ricardo J. Garibay Ruiz has worked as a photographer and educator since 1985. His work has appeared in exhibitions in Mexico, the United States, and Japan and has been published in magazines including *Artes de México y Architectural Digest Verlag,* and in books such as *Un Día en la Ciudad de Mexico.* He has illustrated books for the National Ministry of Education and Editorial Clío and served on the editorial committee for *Cuartoscuro,* an independent magazine devoted to the fine art of black and white photography. As an educator, Mr. Garibay Ruiz has taught and lectured at several schools, including Universidad Iberoamericana, the National School of Visual Arts, and the Centro de la Imagen. Currently, he coordinates special and fine art projects and oversees the quality control of photographic and digital processes at the Laboratorio Mexicano de Imágenes in Mexico City.

Exhibition Specifications

Size

At least 100 linear ft (30.5 m)

Environment

5–10 foot candle capability required; no natural light in gallery; temperature and humidity controls preferred but not strictly required if works will be protected from extreme variance in conditions

Security

Exhibition requires a limited-access, lockable space with security staff during public hours

Shipping

Round trip shipping paid by host venue

Languages

All text in English and Spanish; language may be converted by host venues

Rental fee

$5,000 for 3 months

Features

- 26 framed color photographs
- 12 content panels, 1 title panel, 26 photograph labels

Contact

travelingexh@fieldmuseum.org

312.665.7119

www.fieldmuseum.org/landing/traveling-exhibitions

This exhibition was developed by the Field Museum in collaboration with Mars, Incorporated.

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